



## Leprosy and its Treatment

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### ABSTRACT

We shall now expound the chapter, Kustha-svitra-krimi nidanam-diagnosis of leprosy, leucoderma and worms (para-sites); thus said Atreya and other great sages. The malas (doss) getting aggravated by unsuitable foods and activities, especially by foods which are incompatible, by sinful acts of the present life such as scold-ing/defaming or killing the pious (ascetics, elders, preceptors etc.), robbing the properties of others etc. or sinful acts of the previous lives; invade the channels present everywhere inside, vitiate the (skin) lasika (lymph) blood and (muscles make them flabby (loose, weak) and fall out, cause discolouration of the skin; this disease is called Kustha. 13.

Allowed the lapse of time, it makes the entire body look ugly by spreading to all the tissues, causing too much of moistness inside them, leading to flow of sweat and exuda-tons, putrefaction, formation of minute (invisible) worms (bacilli, bacteria, virus etc.) which are very troublesome; these worms, eat away the (hairs) (skin) (tendons arteries veins and (cartillages one after the other. Because of this, svitra (leucoderma) is described as outside of kustha (different from leprosy).

### INTRODUCTION

Kustha is of seven kinds; by each dosa separately, by the combination of any two and by all of them together. Though all kinds are caused by the combination of all three dosas, their classification as above is on the basis of predominance.

From (the predominance of) vata arises (kapala from pitta, arises [audumbara) from kapha arise [ mandala) and vicarci; from vatapitta arises (rsyajihva from vataslesma (kapha) arise (carma, ekakustha, kitibha, sidhma, alasa, and vipädika; from slesma (kapha) pitta arise dadru, sataru, pundarika, visphota, pãma and carmadala; from all doss together arises kakana.

Of these, the first three (kapala, udumbara, mandala), dadra, kãkana, pundarika and rsyaji these seven are Mahakusthas.

#### *Premonitory symptoms (Purvarupa)*

The skin is very smooth, hard to touch, with or without sweating, discolouration, burning sensation, itching, loss of tactile sensation (anaesthesia), pricking pain; elevated raised patches of skin, exertion, severe pain in the wounds which arise quickly and stay long, roughness even in those wounds which have healed, the wounds get exacerbated (flare up) even with trivial causes, occurrence of horripilations black colour of the blood are the premonitory symptoms of kustha.

#### *Clinical feature*

Skin patches which are blackish red, resembling pot-sherds, dry, anesthetic, rough, thin, wide, of uneven edges, studded with more hairs, having horripilations, with severe puncturing pain, less of itching, and spreading quickly are the features of Kapãla kustha.

Skin patches resembling ripe fruit of udumbara, (dusky red) with coppery-red skin and hairs studded with white coloured veins, thick, exuding large quantity of moisture and blood, with severe burning sensation and pain, quick in manifestation, putrefaction and appearance of worms (bacte. tia, bacilli) indicate Udumbara kustha.

#### **Mandala Kustha**

Skin patches static, hard, heavy, unctuous, whitish-red, not developing quickly, joined with one another, raised, with more of itching, exudation and worms (bacteria /bacilli); edges smooth, yellowish and circular-are the features of Mandala kustha.

#### **Vicarcika**

Vicarcika has eruptions which are itching, black and full of lymph.

### **Rsyajihva kustha**

Skin patches are rough, thin, with red coloured edges and black in the centre, greatly raised, with pricking pain, burning sensation, constant pain and exudation, studded with rough (hard) eruptions, resembling the tongue of the black deer and having more of worms (bacilli) are the features of Rsyajihva kustha.

### **Note:**

Skin resembling that of the elephant and rough to touch is Carmākhyā kustha. In Eka kustha the lesion is very wide (covers a large area) non-sweating and resembles the skin of the fish. Kitibha kustha has dry skin; rough, and hard, creating sound on scratching, itches, hard and black, in sidhama the skin is dry outside and moist inside, smooth to touch, whitish coppery coloured resembling flower of dugdhik; chaint) plant, usually conned vill small tumors; wit the body. Alasaka kustha is studded with small tumors; with itch. bodand red in colour (īpadika kusthacauses cracks / fistures. ins ae hands and feet, has severe pain and mild itching, studded with red coloured eruptions.

### **Dadru kustha**

Skin patches long and wide like the blade of durva grass) has the colour (imilar) to that of the flower of atasi, raised, round patch with itching persisting for a long time are the features of Dadru kustha.

### **Sataru kustha**

(Sataru kustha) has multiple ulcers, which are deep seated, having burning sensation and pain, reddish-black in on joints.colour, with more of exudate and worms, commonly occurring in joints.

### **Pundarika kustha**

Skin patches with red edges and white inside, with itch-ins burning sensation and pain, raised, covered with reddish dust resembling the lotus petal, exudes thick and copious lymph and blood and spliting quickly are the features of pundarika kustha.

### **Visphota kustha**

Visphota kustha has thin skin patches covered with blackish red blebs. Pama kustha has eruptions which have severe itching, more exudate and pain, small in size, blackish red and large in number commonly on the buttocks, hands and elbows, Carmadala kustha has blebs which do not allow touching, severe itching, heat, pricking, and burning sensation, red in colour and the skin is cracked.

Kākana kustha has severe burning sensation and pain, red and black at the time of onset, resembling the seeds of kākananti (gunja) then gradually attaining all the features of kustha and of many colours.

### **Prognosis:-**

Kustha which has been caused by the aggravation of all the dosās, which has been described in Arista chapter (5 of sarirasthāna) and that which has localised in the bone, marrow and semen should be refused treatment; that localised in the fat tissue is controllable and persists long, that caused by pitta combination (with any other dosa) and localised in blood and kapha and vata and localised in the skin only and that caused by any one mala (dosa) is not difficult to cure.

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## **Treatment**

The patient of kutha (leprosy) should be treated first with snehapāna-drinking of fat (as part of oleation therapy); when vata is the predominant dosa such oil or ghee medicated with (the decoction of) dasamula, amrta, eranda, sarngeṣṭa and mesasringi.

1. TIKTA GHRATA

2. VAJARKA GHRTA

3. MAHAVAJRAKA GHRTA

4. MANIBHADRA GUDA

TYPES

1-LEPROMATOUS (MULTIBACILLARY)

2-TUBERCULOID(PAUCIBACILLARY)

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## **SIGN AND SYMPTOM**

1-LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY:-SKIN LESIONS AND SYMMETRICAL INVOLMENT OF PERIPHERAL NERVES WITH ANAESTHESIA , MUSCLE WEAKNESS AND PARALYSIS.

2-TUBERCULOID(PAUCIBACILLARY)-USUALLY BENIGN Visceral involment is not seen.

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## **ANTI LEPROTIC DRUG**

1 DAPSONE

2 CLOFAZIMINE

3 RIFAMPICIN

### **Reference: -**

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ASTANGA HRIDYAM

- Chapter 14,KUSTHA SVITRA KRIMI NIDANAM

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